

- o *The drug-related death rate has risen steadily since 1980, when North Carolina experienced the national objective of 2.0 deaths per 100,000 population. Although the U.S. death rate is considerably higher, it shows similar trends.*
- o *The state's homicide death rate for black males aged 15-24 was at or below the national objective of 60.0 through 1989. In 1990, however, it rose to 71.8 per 100,000 population.*
- o *Child abuse and neglect reports and confirmed cases have grown every year, except one, since these data have been collected. The national objective for 1990 called for child abuse cases to be reduced by 25 percent between 1980 and 1990.*
- o *The suicide rate for North Carolinians aged 15 through 24 rose in 1989 and 1990 to surpass that of the nation. In 1990, nearly 14 out of every 100,000 people aged 15 through 24 committed suicide.*

Based on 1982-86 data, the following objectives were expected to be met or surpassed by North Carolina, but were not: black homicide rate among males aged 15 through 24; suicide rate among people aged 15 through 24; neonatal death rate; and primary and secondary syphilis case rates.

Declines in the percentage of second trimester abortions, infant and neonatal mortality, motor vehicle death rates for total and children under age 15, and the drowning death rate are encouraging. However, based upon the few national goals reached by either the United States or North Carolina, it appears that more realistic goals need to be set. North Carolina is in the process of setting objectives for the year 2000, which hopefully will aid policymakers and planners, as well as those on the front line who must implement strategies, to reach these goals.